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## Bounding Down the Mountain Peaks

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# *Bounding Down the Mountain Peaks*

## *A Translation of Peter Abelard's *In Montibus Hic Saliens**

*Andrew & Lindsay Bloch*

This Latin Ascension hymn was written by Peter Abelard, medieval philosopher and lawyer. In our translation, we sought to recreate Abelard's depiction of Christ the bridegroom as a chivalrous prince claiming his bride, the Church. Abelard bolsters his courtly love motif with inspiration from the texts of Song of Solomon 2 and Psalm 45. The Latin text is found in the critical edition of Joseph Szöveffy's *Peter Abelard's Hymnarius Paraclitensis*, 133-34. Our translation can be set to the tune of "Gott sei Dank" (see LSB 830, 900).

1. Bounding down the mountain peaks  
Springing from the heights, he speaks,  
Sounding down the mountainside,  
"Rise and follow me, my bride!"

2. Scaling up the heights, they roam  
To his Father's castle home.  
"Dearest, hurry to our land;  
Sit with me at God's right hand."

3. "See the hosts of all his land;  
See my Father's kingdom band.  
They with him await you there,  
In our wedding joys to share."

4. "All that suits a royal bride,  
Queenly clothing I provide.  
Golden dress and precious stones—  
All that's mine is now your own."

5. Glory be to Christ on high  
Raised above the starry sky,  
Father, Spirit— One God reigns  
Over heights and deepest plains.



*Andrew and Lindsay Bloch live on campus at Concordia Seminary where Andrew is a PhD student. Andrew and Lindsay met at Concordia University Nebraska and were married in 2018. They have three children: Philip, Leona, and Rhoda. When they are not playing with their kids they enjoy translating Latin and talking theology together.*